

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071088
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071088

EXDIS, FOR AMB. FROM NEA/ARN, DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: KHADDAM VISIT TO U.S.

REF: DAMASCUS 2092

1. STRICTLY FYI, TENTATIVELY KHADDAM SCHEDULE IS SHAPING UP, BUT STILL SUBJECT TO HIGH-LEVEL CLEARANCE, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: LATE MORNING MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH HOSTED BY SYRIAN AMBASSADOR, TO WHICH SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, ETC, MIGHT BE INVITED. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A MID-AFTERNOON SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, AND A WORKING DINNER HOSTED BY THE SECRETARY. END FYI.

2. WE ALSO HAD BEEN THINKING OF A MEETING WITH THE VICE
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PRESIDENT AT SOME POINT AND WILL REPORT FURTHER TO YOU
ON WHAT DEVELOPS.

3. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMS ME THAT MRS. KHADDAM WILL ACCOMPANY HER HUSBAND AND HOPES FOR A FULL MEDICAL EXAMINATION ALSO. WE ARE ARRANGING THIS, HAVING ALSO TAKEN NOTE THAT SHE WILL NEED THE SERVICES OF A DERMATOLOGIST FOR A

SKIN PROBLEM.

4. AS FOR KHADDAM'S OWN MEDICAL, SEEMS TO ME THAT HE COULD TAKE THE BASIC LAB TESTS, ETC., BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 10:00 OR 10:30 A.M., AND FOLLOW THIS UP WITH AN EARLY SATURDAY MORNING EXAMINATION BY THE PHYSICIANS. WE ARE, HOWEVER, HAVING TROUBLE SCHEDULING FRIDAY EXAMS EVEN FOR MRS. KHADDAM. PLEASE DO NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT EXAMS UNTIL WE GIVE YOU FURTHER WORD.

5. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR VERY MUCH WANTS TO HAVE THE KHADDAMS STAY AT HIS RESIDENCE DURING THE VISIT. UNDERSTOOD FROM A CRYPTIC REMARK YOU MADE OVER THE TELEPHONE TO ME ONE DAY THAT KHADDAM WOULD PREFER TO STAY AT A HOTEL. COULD YOU CONFIRM TO ME WHAT YOU BELIEVE KHADDAM'S PERSONAL PREFERENCES MIGHT BE. QABBANI HAS GIVEN ME AN EASY WAY OUT, SAYING HE WOULD BE GUIDED BY WHATEVER THE DEPT. FELT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR KHADDAM IN TERMS OF EASE OF SECURITY PROTECTION, ETC. I CAN GIVE HIM AN ANSWER WHICH SAVES HIS FACE.

6. ON HIS LAST VISIT, KHADDAM APPARENTLY STAYED AT THE WATERGATE HOTEL. IF KHADDAM WOULD PREFER A HOTEL, WOULD THIS ONE DO, OR DO YOU HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS?
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE071088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770110-0729
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977032/aaaaabck.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2083ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 DAMASCUS 2092
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2988481
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHADDAM VISIT TO U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SY, US, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2083ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009